(d) whether any steps have been taken to augment the export of iron ore to Japan in view of the likely increase in steel production there; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) A Statement is attached. (*See* below).

(b) A target for export of Iron Ore for 1992-93 was fixed at 31.71 million tonnes and the likely exports are expected to be 28.11 million tonnes.

(c) India was the third largest exporter of Iron Ore in the international iron ore market in 1991.

(d) & (e) Exports of Iron Ore to Japan are being effected under the Long Term Agreement. The annual contracts for 1993-94 for export of Iron Ore to Japan have already been concluded by MMTC and other shippers at the same levels as in 1992-93. No substantial increase in export is contemplated in view of rising domestic demand for iron ore, need to conserve scarce resources of high grade ore and the general policy of encouraging export of value added items rather than raw materials.

Statement

Details of country-wise export of iron ore from India during the current financial year i.e. April '92 to January '93 are as under :

(Qty. Lakh tonnes)

Country	*Quantity*
Japan	127.91
Korea	34.38
Romania	0.83
Italy	10.46
DPRK	0.49
Australia	1.85
Turgey	3.19
Others	4.88
Total :	223.99

Reduction in Interest Rate on Export Credit

3311. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that E.C.G. Corporation has indicated as per news item published in the Indian Express dated the 4th February, 1993 that it may be compelled to shelve its proposal for the introduction of export facilitating services if the Reserve Bank of India reduces the interest rate on export credit;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (c) Possibly, the Hon'ble Member is seeking information regarding the proposal of Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Ltd. (ECGC) for introduction of Export Factoring services in India. The ECGC have no move now to shelve this proposal.

Tenth Engineering Trade Fair at New Delhi

3312. SYED SIBTEY RAZI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that the Tenth Indian Engineering Trade Fair was organised at New Delhi in the recent past;

(b) if so, what are the names of foreign participants with special characteristics of this fair;

(c) whether some joint venture agreements and memoranda of understanding were signed with foreign companies during this fair;

(d) if so, details thereof with special reference to industries in Uttar Pradesh;

(e) whether such fairs will lead to the progress of the country in future; and

(f) if so, in what way and if not, reasons for organising this fair ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The 22 countries which participated in the Tenth Indian Engineering Trade Fair (IETF) were Austria, Canada, China Czech Republic, European community, Federal Republic of Germany (partner country). Finland, France, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Japan, Mauritius, Netherlands, Russian Federation, Slovak Republic, South Africa, Spain, Taiwan, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States of America. United Nations was also represented at the fair by UNDP, UNIDO and UN-ESCAP.

(c) and (d) Several Joint Ventures and Memorandum of Understanding were signed during the fair—prominent amongst which were :—

— Trivani Engineering Works Ltd's MOU with CEO Alstham.

— Rs. 2300 crores worth MOU in Food Processing Sector signed with U.K.

— German Consortium's decision to invest Deutch Marks 1.4 billion in Tamil Nadu.

— Godrej GE tie-up for manufacturing home appliances.

— MOU between CII and BDI of Germany and CII and CMA of Canada.

— MOU between McNella Bharat Engineering Co. Ltd. and Siemen AG.

— CII signed MOU with Uttar Pradesh for technical education.

(e) and (f) Such fairs lead to progress of the country in future. The basic endeavour of the organisers is to display the latest in technology from all around the Globe. The fair gives a chance to all interested, be it Exhibitors or the vistors to get together and share information and make business deals.

Financial Assistance given by MPEDA in Andhra Pradesh

3313. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the quantum of financial assistance given by MPEDA for acquaculture in Andhra Pradesh during the year 1991-92 and upto 31-1-93 during the year 1992-93; and

(b) what are the names of companies and individuals who obtained financial assistance from MPEDA ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) to (b) Information is being compiled and would be laid on the Table of the House.

Flouting of Bank Norms by MMTC

3314. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation had flouted norms on bank deposits;

(b) if so, full facts and details thereof;

(c) whether any corrective measurs are proposed by Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) MMTC had made all short-term deposits of surplus funds during the last five years with public sector banks and financial institutions except in two cases; one in 1987 and another in 1991 when deposits were made by it with City Bank and ANZ Grindlays Bank for a few days. Since 3-1-1992, public sector undertakings have been permitted to undertake normal